



## Biden to announce new eviction ban due to COVID spread

By JOSH BOAK and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Biden administration will announce a new 60-day eviction moratorium that would protect areas where 90% of the U.S. population lives, according to three people familiar with the plans who insisted on anonymity to discuss the forthcoming announcement. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has identified a legal authority for a new and different moratorium that would be for areas with high and substantial increases in COVID-19 infections. The extension helps to heal a rift with liberal Democratic lawmakers who were calling on executive action to keep renters in their homes as the delta variant of the coronavirus spread and a prior moratorium lapsed at the end of July.

Continued on next page

# BAN NEW



Supporters of Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., camp with her outside the U.S. Capitol, in Washington, Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, as anger and frustration has mounted in Congress after a nationwide eviction moratorium expired at midnight Saturday.

Associated Press

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**Continued from Front**

Administration officials had previously said a Supreme Court ruling stopped them from setting up a new moratorium without congressional backing, saying that states and cities must be more aggressive in releasing nearly \$47 billion in relief for renters on the verge of eviction.

The new policy came amid a scramble of actions by the Biden team to reassure Democrats and the country that it could find a way to halt potential evictions.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen briefed House Democrats Tuesday on the administration's efforts to prevent widespread housing evictions after a moratorium lapsed, but lawmakers protesting outside the U.S. Capitol said more needs to be done, intensifying pressure on President Joe Biden to act.

Yellen told Democrats on a private call about the work underway to ensure some \$47 billion in federal housing aid approved during the COVID-19 crisis makes it to renters and landlords. She provided data so that lawmakers could see how their districts and states are performing with distributing the relief, according to a person on the call. The White House has said state and local governments have been slow to push out that federal money and is pressing them to do so swiftly after the eviction moratorium expired over the weekend.

The treasury secretary tried to encourage Democrats to work together, even as lawmakers have said Biden should act on his own to extend the eviction moratorium, according to someone on the private call who insisted on anonymity to discuss its contents.

Yellen said on the call, according to this person, that she agrees "we need to bring every resource to bear" and that she appreciated the Democrats' efforts and wants "to leave no stone unturned."

But progressive lawmakers, who have been camped for days outside the Capitol with dozens of supporters, are trying to pressure the administration to put the moratorium back in place.

"What we need is for the White House to actually do, to do the thing — and they need to actually extend the moratorium," Rep. Alex-



**Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., speaks with reporters as she camps outside the U.S. Capitol, in Washington, Monday, Aug. 2, 2021, as anger and frustration has mounted in Congress after a nationwide eviction moratorium expired at midnight Saturday.**

**Associated Press**

andria Ocasio-Cortez said at the Capitol.

The administration had repeatedly resisted another extension because the Supreme Court appears likely to block it. When the court allowed the eviction ban to remain in place through the end of July by a 5-4 vote, one justice in the majority, Brett Kavanaugh, wrote that Congress would have to act to extend it further.

As the eviction crisis mounts, the White House has frequently said that Biden is doing all he can under legal constraints to keep renters in their homes and landlords paid what they are owed. While as many as 3.6 million Americans are at risk of eviction, the administration has emphasized that money has already been approved and many Americans will be able to stay housed with the efforts underway.

The focus on states comes as Biden faces stinging criticism, including from some in his own party, that he was slow to address the end of the moratorium. Some people were at immediate risk of losing their homes.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi had called the prospect of widespread evictions "unfathomable." The Congressional Black Caucus, the Con-

gressional Hispanic Caucus and other progressive lawmakers intensified pressure on the White House to issue an immediate extension.

One Democrat, Rep. Cori Bush of Missouri, has been camped outside the U.S. Capitol in protest since the weekend. She was joined overnight Monday by Ocasio-Cortez, Rep. Jimmy Gonzalez, D-Calif., and others who gave her a brief reprieve so she could rest indoors. Bush also had a brief conversation Monday at the Capitol with Vice President Kamala Harris.

"People could be helped right now," said Bush, a first-term, St. Louis-area lawmaker who has shared her own story of living temporarily in her car as a young mother years ago. "We need that moratorium."

Late last week, Biden announced he was allowing the ban to expire, pushing Congress to act, but lawmakers were unable to swiftly rally the votes as even Democrats questioned prolonging the eviction ban for a few more months.

The CDC put the eviction ban in place as part of the COVID-19 response when jobs shifted and many workers lost income. The ban was intended to hold back the spread of the virus among people put out on the streets and into shelters.

The White House noted that state-level efforts to stop evictions would spare a third of the country from evictions over the next month.

While the administration is still investigating legal options to forestall evictions, officials said their options were limited. White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday that the CDC, which issued the eviction ban, was "unable to find legal authority for a new, targeted eviction moratorium."

Mass evictions could potentially worsen the recent spread of the COVID-19 delta variant as roughly 1.4 million households told the Census Bureau they could "very likely" be evicted from their rentals in the next two months. Another 2.2 million say they're "somewhat likely" to be evicted.

Gene Sperling, who oversees the administration's coronavirus relief plans, said the administration will continue looking for additional legal avenues to keep people in their homes. Yet he stressed the complexity of the problem by also noting that the Trump administration developed guidelines for providing aid to renters and landlords that were unworkable. Those guidelines which required extensive documentation were changed once Biden was in office.

"This is not an easy task," Sperling said. "We as a country have never had a national infrastructure or national policy for preventing avoidable evictions." Democratic lawmakers said they were caught by surprise by Biden's decision to end the moratorium, creating frustration and anger and exposing a rare rift with the administration. The CDC indicated in late June that it probably wouldn't extend the eviction ban beyond the end of July.

Rep. Maxine Waters, the powerful chair of the Financial Services Committee, has been talking privately for days with Yellen and urged the treasury secretary to use her influence to prod states to push the money out the door.

But Waters also called on the CDC to act on its own. "I don't buy that the CDC can't extend the eviction moratorium - something it has already done in the past! Who is going to stop them?" Waters said in a tweet. "C'mon CDC - have a heart! Just do it!"



# U.S. plans 50% more wild horse roundups amid Western drought

**RENO, Nev. (AP)**—U.S. land managers have begun efforts to capture about 50% more wild horses than originally planned this year because of severe drought across the U.S. West — about 6,000 additional animals primarily in Nevada, Oregon and Colorado. The Bureau of Land Management said the emergency roundups that began Sunday in Oregon and Monday in Nevada concentrate on places where "chronic overpopulation" of the herds "already has stretched the available food and water to its limits." "As one of the agencies charged with the responsibility to protect and manage America's wild horses and burros, the BLM is prepared to take emergency action where we can in order to save the lives of these cherished animals," said Nada Wolff Culver, the bureau's deputy director for policy and programs. The agency is committed to "continuing our efforts to reduce overpopulation across the West and achieve healthy, sustainable herd sizes that are



In this July 13, 2008, file photo, a livestock helicopter pilot rounds up wild horses from the Fox & Lake Herd Management Area in Washoe County, Nev., near the town on Empire, Nev.

Associated Press

more capable of withstanding severe conditions, including prolonged drought, which are becoming more frequent due to climate change," she said in announcing the effort Monday. Horse advocates say the

emergency roundups that will continue into September are being driven by pressure from ranchers who don't want the mustangs competing with their livestock for limited forage and water.

One advocate said she's

especially disappointed the Biden administration is continuing the policies of former President Donald Trump and previous administrations that prioritized removal of horses that are federally protected without reining in the number of

cattle and sheep grazing on the same land.

"Profit-driven interests ravage the landscape, and we blame the horse," said Laura Leigh, president of the nonprofit group Wild Horse Education.

"Absolutely nothing has changed under the Biden administration except we are being spoon-fed a dose of greenwash that they 'care' about the environment and wild things," she said.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association said ranchers already have made voluntary changes to reduce and rotate grazing on federal lands during a drought "more pervasive and dramatic than we have seen in years," said Kaitlynn Glover, the association's executive director of resources.

"These removals are critical for the horses as well as the health of the rangelands," she said in an email to The Associated Press. "Even in times where resources are plentiful, these overpopulated herds cause serious damage to the landscape." □

# Officer dead, suspect killed in violence outside Pentagon

By **LOLITA C. BALDOR, ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL BAL-SAMO**

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A Pentagon police officer died after being stabbed Tuesday during a burst of violence at a transit center outside the building, and a suspect was shot by law enforcement and died at the scene, officials said. The Pentagon, the headquarters of the U.S. military, was temporarily placed on lockdown after someone attacked the officer on a bus platform shortly after 10:30 a.m. The ensuing violence, which included a volley of gunshots, resulted in "several casualties," said Woodrow Kusse, the chief of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, which is responsible for security in the facility. The deaths of the offi-

cer and the suspect were confirmed by officials who were not authorized to discuss the matter and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity. The Fairfax County Police Department also tweeted condolences about the officer's death.

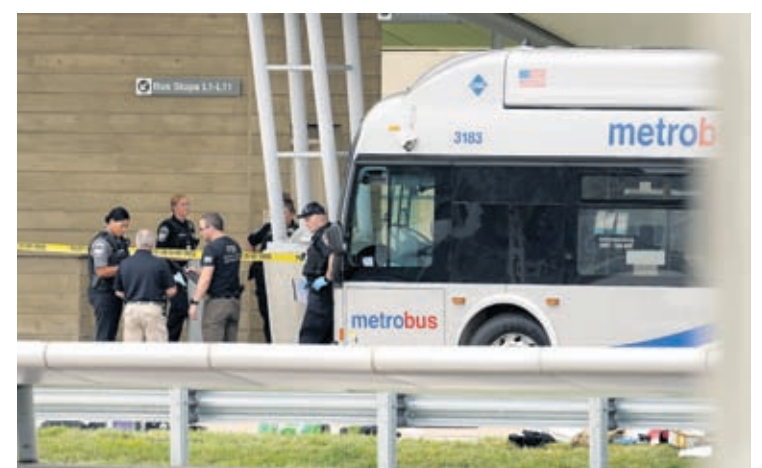
The circumstances remained unclear even hours after the violence had ended. But the episode on a busy stretch of the Washington area's transportation system jangled the nerves of a region already primed to be on high alert for violence and potential intruders outside federal government buildings, particularly following the Jan. 6 riot at the Capitol.

At a Pentagon news conference, Kusse declined to confirm that the officer had been killed or provide even basic information

about how the violence had unfolded or how many might be dead. He would only say that an officer had been attacked and that "gunfire was exchanged." Kusse and other officials declined to rule out terrorism or provide any other potential motive. But, Kusse said the Pentagon complex was secure and "we are not actively looking for another suspect at this time." He said the FBI was leading the investigation. "I can't compromise the ongoing investigation," Kusse said.

The FBI issued a similar statement, confirming only that it was investigating and that there was "no ongoing threat to the public" but declining to offer details or a possible motive.

Tuesday's violence occurred on a Metro bus platform that is part of the Pen-



Police are looking at a scene and items are seen on the ground near a Metrobus outside the Pentagon Metro area, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021 at the Pentagon in Washington.

Associated Press

tagon Transit Center, a hub for subway and bus lines. The station is steps from the Pentagon building, which is in Arlington County, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from Washington. An Associated Press reporter near the building heard multiple gunshots, then a

pause, then at least one additional shot. Another AP journalist heard police yelling "shooter."

A Pentagon announcement said the facility was on lockdown, but that was lifted after noon, except for the area around the crime scene. □



# Cuomo defiant after probe says he sexually harassed 11 women

By **MICHAEL R. SISAK** and **MARINA VILLENEUVE**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — An investigation found that Gov. Andrew Cuomo sexually harassed nearly a dozen women in and out of state government and worked to retaliate against one of his accusers, New York's attorney general announced Tuesday, hastening calls for the Democrat's resignation or impeachment.

President Joe Biden was among those who said Cuomo should resign, a high-profile condemnation from a onetime close ally. "I think he should resign," he told reporters Tuesday.

The governor remained defiant, saying in a taped response to the findings that "the facts are much different than what has been portrayed" and that he "never touched anyone inappropriately or made inappropriate sexual advances."

The nearly five-month investigation, led by two outside lawyers, concluded that 11 women who said that Cuomo had touched them inappropriately, commented on their appearance or made suggestive comments about their sex lives were telling the truth.

Those accusers included an aide who said Cuomo groped her breast at the governor's mansion and a state trooper on his security detail, who said he ran his hand or fingers across her stomach and her back.

Anne Clark, who led the probe with former U.S. Attorney Joon Kim, said the allegations were corroborated to varying degrees, including by other witnesses and contemporaneous text messages.

"These interviews and pieces of evidence revealed a deeply disturbing yet clear picture: Gov. Cuomo sexually harassed current and former state employees in violation of federal and state laws," New York Attorney General Letitia James said at a press conference on Tuesday.

Many of the women said they feared retaliation if they reported the governor's behavior, investiga-



**New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference at New York's Yankee Stadium, Monday, July 26, 2021.**

tors said. On at least one occasion, the probe found, Cuomo's staff took action "intended to discredit and disparage" an accuser — Lindsey Boylan, the first former employee to publicly accuse him of wrongdoing — including leaking confidential personnel files and drafting a letter attacking her credibility.

The investigation's findings, detailed in a 165-page public report, turn up the pressure on the 63-year-old governor, who just a year ago was widely hailed for his steady leadership during the darkest days of the COVID-19 crisis, even writing a book about it.

Since then, he's seen his standing crumble with a drumbeat of harassment allegations, questions in a separate, ongoing inquiry into whether state resources went into writing the book, and the discovery that his administration concealed the true number of nursing home deaths during the outbreak.

The revelations, most of which were initially made public last winter, led to a chorus of calls then for Cuomo's resignation from many top elected Democrats in New York. U.S. Sens. Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand said after the report's release Tuesday that

it reinforces a call for his resignation they first made last March.

"No elected official is above the law. The people of New York deserve better leadership in the governor's office. We continue to believe that the Governor should resign," they said in a joint statement.

While James concluded the investigation without referring the case to prosecutors for possible criminal charges, local authorities could use its evidence and findings to mount their own cases. Albany District Attorney David Soares said he will be requesting material from James' office and welcomed victims to contact his office with information.

The investigation's findings are also expected to play an important role in an ongoing state Assembly inquiry into whether there are grounds to impeach Cuomo, who has been raising money for a potential fourth term in office. The Assembly hired its own legal team to investigate myriad allegations regarding harassment, his book, nursing homes and special access to COVID-19 testing.

Several Cuomo accusers demanded swifter action, calling on the governor to leave office immediately. Some Democratic and Re-

publican state lawmakers joined them, along with one-time Cuomo allies including county executives and leaders of left-leaning political groups.

Lt. Gov Kathy Hochul, who would succeed Cuomo if he is removed or resigns, called the behavior detailed in the report "repulsive and unlawful behavior" and said, "No one is above the law."

In his taped response, Cuomo apologized to two accusers: Charlotte Bennett, who said the governor asked if she was open to sex with an older man after she confided in him that she had been a victim of sexual assault, and a woman he kissed at a wedding — an incident reported in a front-page story in The New York Times. Cuomo said he was hiring an expert to reform sexual harassment training for state employees, including the governor.

But he denied other allegations as fabricated and lashed out at the investigative process, saying it was rife with "politics and bias." He explained that he's been physically embracing people his whole life, that his mother and father, former Gov. Mario Cuomo, had done the same and that the gesture was meant to "convey warmth."

Cuomo's lawyer issued a written rebuttal to the investigation's findings, arguing in most cases that serious allegations, like the alleged groping, didn't happen, or that his actions were misconstrued.

"For those who are using this moment to score political points or seek publicity or personal gain. I say they actually discredit the legitimate sexual harassment victims that the law was designed to protect," Cuomo said. Bennett called the governor's apology to her "meaningless."

"If he were sorry, he would step down. That's how accountability works," she told The Associated Press. "I don't believe he will resign. I think it's the speaker's job now to begin impeachment proceedings."

The report detailed, for the first time, allegations that Cuomo sexually harassed a female state trooper on his security detail. It said that in addition to touching the trooper, Cuomo kissed her on the cheek, asked for her help in finding a girlfriend and asked why she didn't wear a dress.

The report also included an allegation from a woman who worked for an energy company who said Cuomo touched her chest at an event. The woman said Cuomo ran his fingers across the lettering on her shirt, reading the name of her company aloud. Then he leaned in and said: "I'm going to say I see a spider on your shoulder," and brushed his hand in between her shoulder and breasts, the report said.

"These brave women stepped forward to speak truth to power and, in doing so, they expressed faith in the belief that although the governor may be powerful, the truth is even more so," Kim said at the press conference.

Cuomo faced multiple allegations last winter, starting with Boylan, who said Cuomo kissed her on the lips after a meeting in his office and "would go out of his way to touch me on my lower back, arms and legs." □



# Russia hands Navalny ally parole-like sentence over protests

By **DARIA LITVINOVA**

**Associated Press**

**MOSCOW (AP)** — A court in Moscow on Tuesday sentenced a close ally of imprisoned opposition leader Alexei Navalny to 1 1/2 years of parole-like restrictions in a controversial criminal case the government launched against opposition supporters after mass protests shook Russia this year.

The court found Lyubov Sobol guilty of inciting people to violate coronavirus restrictions and for the next 18 months barred her from leaving her home between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., attend mass events or travel outside Moscow and its outlying region. She was also ordered to check in with police three times a month, her lawyer Vladimir Voronin said.

He added that because Sobol had already spent nearly six months under house arrest and other restrictions, the sentence will only remain in place for about a year.

The case against Sobol and several other Navalny allies was launched shortly after nationwide protests over his arrest and jailing rocked Russia all across its 11 time zones on Jan. 23.

Navalny, Russian President Vladimir Putin's most ardent political foe, was arrested a week before that upon returning from Germany, where he spent five months recovering from a nerve agent poisoning that he blames on the Kremlin — an accusation rejected by Russian officials.

In February, Navalny was ordered to serve 2½ years in prison for violating the terms of a suspended sentence from a 2014 embezzlement conviction that he dismissed as politically motivated.

His arrest and jailing sparked a wave of mass protests that appeared to be a major challenge to the Kremlin. The authorities responded with mass arrests of demonstrators and the criminal prosecutions of Navalny's closest associates.

Sobol and others were ac-



**Russian opposition activist Lyubov Sobol, a close ally of Alexei Navalny, looks at photographers as she arrives at the court in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021.**

Associated Press

cused of inciting people to break coronavirus regulations by urging them to join the protests.

The crackdown on Navalny's team didn't stop there. In June, the politician's Foundation for Fighting Corruption, which he launched 10 years ago and has published dozens of colorful and widely watched videos exposing the alleged corruption of senior government officials, was labeled an extremist group, along with the network of regional offices that Navalny had relied on to organize protests.

The ruling not only barred the foundation and the offices from operating, but also prevents people associated with the groups from seeking public office and exposes them to lengthy prison terms.

Last month, the authorities blocked some 50 websites run by Navalny's team or his supporters for allegedly disseminating propaganda of extremist groups and asked Twitter to take down Sobol's account.

Sobol blasted the move as "the Kremlin's hysteria" ahead of the parliamentary election on Sept. 19 that is widely seen as an important part of Putin's efforts to cement his rule before the 2024 presidential election. The 68-year-old Russian

leader, who has been in power for more than two decades, pushed through constitutional changes last year that would potentially allow him to hold onto power until 2036.

As the vote looms, opposition supporters, independent journalists and human rights activists in Russia face increased government pressure.

Russian authorities have declared several independent media outlets and reporters "foreign agents" — a label that implies additional government scrutiny and carries strong pejorative connotations that could discredit the recipients — and targeted prominent investigative journalists with raids. □

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# Seoul: North Korea releases army rice reserves amid shortage

By **HYUNG-JIN KIM**

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**

— North Korea is releasing emergency military rice reserves as its food shortage worsens, South Korea's spy agency said Tuesday, with a heat wave and drought reducing the country's supply.

North Korea's reported food problems come as its moribund economy continues to be battered by the protracted COVID-19 pandemic. While mass starvation and social chaos have not been reported, observers expect a further deterioration of North Korea's food situation until the autumn harvest.

Seoul's National Intelligence Service told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that North Korea is supplying rice reserved for wartime use to citizens with little food, other laborers and rural state agencies, according to Ha Tae-keung, one of the lawmakers who attended the session.

Ha cited the NIS as saying an ongoing heat wave and drought have wiped out rice, corn and other crops and killed livestock in North Korea. The NIS said North Korea's leadership views fighting the drought as "a matter of national ex-



In this May 25, 2021, file photo, farmers plant rice at the Namsa Co-op Farm of Rangnang District in Pyongyang, North Korea.

**Associated Press**

istence" and is focusing on increasing public awareness of its campaign, Ha said.

Another lawmaker, Kim Byung-kee, quoted the NIS as saying that North Korea normally needs about 5.5 million tons of food to feed its 26 million people but is currently short 1 million tons. He said the NIS told the lawmakers that North Korea is running out of its grain stockpiles.

The price of rice, the most important crop in North Korea, once doubled from

early this year. The price briefly stabilized in July before soaring again, Kim cited the NIS as saying.

Ha said North Korea is trying to control the price of grains to which its public is most sensitive.

Kwon Tae-jin, an expert at the private GS&J Institute in South Korea, said North Korea is likely releasing the military reserves to sell at a cheaper price than at markets to stabilize prices. He said rice prices are "considerably unstable" in North Korea because the gov-

ernment has a limit in how much rice it can supply.

It isn't the first time that North Korea has released state rice reserves, but the assessment that it doesn't have much left in its grain stockpiles is worrisome, Kwon said.

North Korea had similar food shortages in past years before the pandemic, according to Kwon, but its needs were met by the smuggling of rice and other grains via its porous border with China. But North Korea's ongoing pandem-

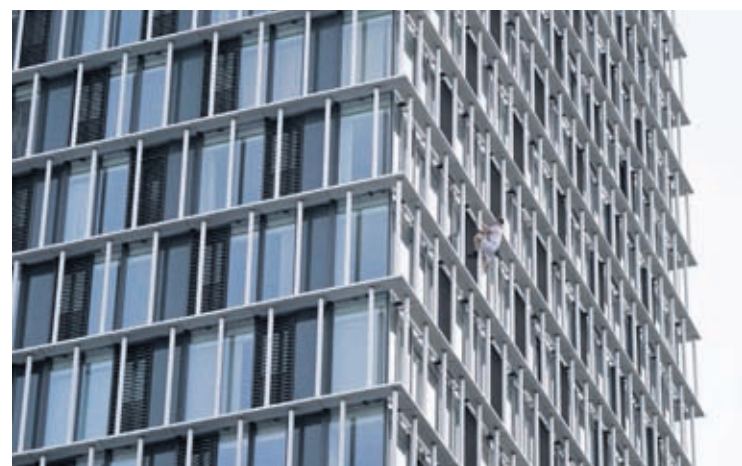
ic-caused border closure makes it extremely difficult for such smuggling to happen, worsening this year's food shortage, Kwon said.

The NIS has a spotty record in confirming developments in North Korea, one of the world's most secretive countries. But its current assessments come after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un admitted his country faces the "worst-ever" crisis due to the pandemic and other difficulties and even a possible dire food shortage.

During a key ruling party meeting in June, Kim urged officials to find ways to boost agricultural production, saying the country's food situation "is now getting tense." Earlier, he even compared the ongoing pandemic-related difficulties to a 1990s famine that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Chinese data show North Korea's trade with China, its last major ally and biggest trading partner, nosedived by about 80% last year — a result of the North's strict border closure. South Korea's central bank said last week that North Korea's economy is estimated to have shrunk 4.5% last year, the biggest contraction since 1997. □

# Free climber scales London skyscraper in climate stunt



Free-solo climber George King climbs the Stratosphere Tower building, a 36-story residential tower block in Stratford, east London Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021.

**Associated Press**

By **TRISTAN WERKMEISTER**

**Associated Press**

**LONDON (AP)** — A 21-year-old free climber who was imprisoned two years ago

for climbing the U.K.'s tallest skyscraper has scaled another building in London, this time to draw attention to climate change.

George King-Thompson climbed up the 36-story Stratosphere Tower, a residential block in east London's Stratford neighborhood, unaided Tuesday morning and reached the top in less than half an hour. The former personal trainer said he picked the skyscraper because he was shocked by the flash floods that recently hit the area. Pudding Mill Lane, a subway station in Stratford, was one of eight stations that closed due to flooding on July 25, when almost a month's worth of rain fell on central London.

"I wanted to raise awareness to the seriousness of climate change at the moment, because only a week

before that, there was a heat wave throughout London," King-Thompson said. "I hope to raise awareness by climbing this building to urge political leaders to take action immediately." The young climber said he spent a week preparing for the feat, studying every aspect and surface of the 147-meter (482-foot) building and trying to climb a few floors overnight in secret.

But there was one thing he wasn't prepared for.

"First eight floors, the windows were sticky. They had grip. But eight floors and above, they didn't. So, it's very slippery, which I underestimated," he said.

King-Thompson admits

climbing buildings is dangerous but said he planned the climb so he would not be a danger to the public or cause disruptions.

Police dispatched a helicopter to search the area Tuesday after they received a call that a man "was spotted at height" in Stratford. They said officers attended but did not locate the climber.

King-Thompson was arrested in 2019 after scaling the Shard in London — the U.K.'s tallest skyscraper at 310 meters (1,017 feet) tall — after the owners of the building pressed charges against him for trespassing. He was sentenced to six months in prison in October 2019 and served three. □





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## Fears over impunity grow as Haiti probes president's slaying

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Police have detained more than 40 suspects in the killing of President Jovenel Moïse, but many people fear Haiti's crumbling judicial system could result in the assassination going unpunished.

Interrogations are continuing, while dozens of suspects, including an ex-Haitian senator and former justice official, are still at large. But the judicial process has already hit significant snags, among them death threats and allegations of evidence tampering.

Experts and even Haiti's Office of Citizen Protection, an ombudsman-like government agency, warn that the country faces many challenges to properly handle such a complicated case.

"The judicial system is held hostage by certain sectors and weakened by a disciplinary body ... that protects dishonest and corrupt judges but persecutes, through bogus human rights NGOs, those who are honest," the agency said in a Sunday statement.

Brian Concannon, an adviser for the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, said he worries about "so much intentional misdirection" as the Moïse investigation moves forward.

"The big issue is are you going to have a structure that can deliver the truth?" he said. "It's possible there are good people that are getting at the truth, but there is enough misdirection, intimidation (and) people apparently manipulating evidence. ... I'm not confident that we're getting closer to the truth with the current process."

Haiti's Office of Citizen Protection noted that 32 high-



**A police officer abandons his vehicle during a demonstration that turned violent in which protesters demanded justice for the assassinated President Jovenel Moïse in Cap-Haitien, Haiti, Thursday, July 22, 2021.**

Associated Press

profile killings dating from 1991 have never been resolved, including those of former government officials, lawyers, academics and journalists. It also accused corrupt judges of freeing suspects arrested by police, noting that in the past two decades there has been no significant criminal process in well-known murder cases.

The agency urged judicial officials, especially Haiti's chief prosecutor, "not to be intimidated by the pressure or the unfair maneuvers of individuals of all stripes who want at all costs to sabotage the investigation into the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in order to reinforce the phenomenon of impunity in Haiti." Bedford Claude, the Port-au-Prince prosecutor overseeing the case, did not return messages for comment.

A recent report submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council that has not been made public

but was shared with The Associated Press condemned what it called chronic impunity in Haiti and the lack of an independent justice sector.

"The judiciary remains in a state of chronic dysfunction," the report said, blaming increased political interference, threats against judicial officials and lack of resources among other things. "Corruption is rampant and there are clear indications of the judiciary acting to vindicate political and other ends, rather than those of justice."

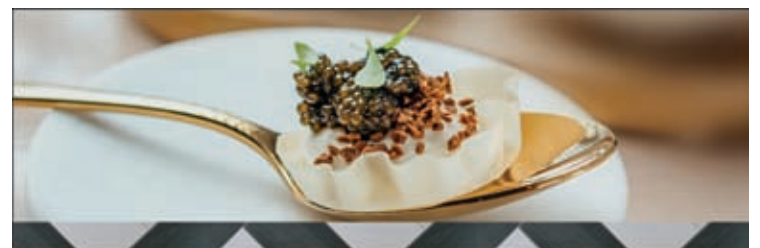
The report said Haiti's judicial system remains marred by lengthy pretrial detentions and paralyzed by the government's failure to pay the salaries of clerks and other workers. It also accused authorities of failing to adequately protect judicial officials.

Among those investigating Moïse's killing who have received death threats is Carl Henry Destin, a justice of the peace who told the AP

that he has gone into hiding. He declined to provide other details, including how the threats might be hampering the investigation into the July 7 attack at Moïse's private home in which his wife, Martine Moïse, was seriously wounded.

Another targeted official is court clerk Marcelin Valentin, who filed a complaint July 29 with the chief prosecutor saying he received serious death threats by phone. He said that in one two days after the assassination, a caller threatened to kill him if he didn't modify names and statements in his report.

One of the messages he received in Creole translates roughly to: "Clerk, you've got a bullet to the head waiting for you." □



infini  
by Urvin Croes

Taste limitless possibilities at Infini, where Chef Urvin Croes and his team explores without boundaries and steps with both feet outside of the box to create his most sensational dishes yet. This meticulously designed restaurant located inside Blue Residences on scenic Eagle Beach is a chef's table concept with limited seating where diners are able to interact with the staff and other guests alike throughout the evening.

### 8 Courses You Will Never Forget



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Dinner Awaits**

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InfiniAruba

infiniaruba



## Fitting perfectly with AUA Airport's strategic plan to become a greener airport: Frontier airlines to start flying to Aruba in November 2021

**ORANJESTAD – Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA), the company that manages and operates Queen Beatrix International Airport (AUA Airport), is proud to announce that Frontier Airlines will start operating to Aruba November 2021.**

For Frontier Airlines, same as for AUA Airport, green is not just their logo color. Still, it is a daily reminder of their mission and pursuit to be America's Greenest Airline. These ideals perfectly fit AUA Airport's strategic plan to become the most sustainable airport in the region.

The airline headquartered in Denver, Colorado, operates more than 100 A320 family aircraft and has the largest A320neo fleet in the Americas, serving approxi-

mately 120 destinations in the U.S., Caribbean, Mexico, and Central America. The initial plan is to start November 2021 with one weekly service from Miami International Airport (MIA). With over 140 new Airbus planes on order, Frontier Airlines will continue to grow to deliver on its mission of providing affordable and greener travel options, connecting Aruba with over 100 destinations across America.

"We're excited to announce service to Queen Beatrix International Airport in Aruba with nonstop flights to Miami beginning this November," said Daniel Shurz, senior vice president of commercial, Frontier Airlines. "Our mission is to deliver 'Low Fares Done Right' for our customers



and we're confident that this new route will make travel to the island even more accessible and affordable for tourists while at the same time providing an attractive option for locals wanting to travel to the U.S. We look forward to welcoming passengers onboard to enjoy the beautiful scenery and warm hospitality of Aruba and to serving locals with affordable flights to Miami and

beyond through our extensive U.S. route network."

"At AUA Airport, we are seriously dedicated to Air Service Development! The team's efforts which have started before the pandemic, are now crystalizing with the addition of a new carrier to the diverse portfolio of carriers that believe in Aruba and our international airport. This first step in our relationship with the popular U.S. low-cost carrier will provide additional traveling options for both local and U.S. travelers, as per Frontier Airlines' motto, 'The sky is for everyone.' Frontier Airlines delivers this vision through its unique brand of low-fare options. As a growing and environmentally conscious airline, the airline perfectly fits AUA Airport's vision for the future. Expansion plans and becoming the most sustainable airport in the region are applicable for both AUA Airport and Frontier Airlines," expressed Mrs. Jo-Anne Meaux-Arends, Air Service Development Manager at AAA.

"We're excited to begin

this new flight service with Frontier Airlines from Miami, one of our priority markets. Considering the past year, increased airlift operations are crucial to Aruba's continued tourism recovery and growth, and we are continually striving to offer expanded flight options for new and returning visitors alike to Aruba. Frontier's effort to reduce their carbon footprint to ensure a cleaner earth is in line with Aruba's approach to bring awareness and education to the public," said Mrs. Ronella Croes, CEO of Aruba Tourism Authority.

"The addition of a new airline and additional flights to Aruba are a result of great efforts made by Aruba's airport and tourism authorities, and a testament to the demand for Aruba as a destination thanks to the wonderful people that work every day to serve our tourists and ensure an enjoyable and safe experience," said Mrs. Tisa LaSorte President and CEO of Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association. □

### Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar Aruba wins 2021 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award for Water's Edge Aruba Great Diner Reviews Earn it a Place Among Travelers' Favorites in the Caribbean



**ORANJESTAD – Water's Edge Restaurant today announced it has been recognized as a 2021 Travelers' Choice award winner for the top 10% restaurants in the world. This achievement celebrates businesses that consistently deliver fantastic experiences to guests and travelers around the globe, having earned great traveler reviews on Tripadvisor over the last 12 months. As challenging as the past year was, Water's Edge stood out by continuously delighting diners.**

' **Water's Edge always strives to offer a unique experience in beachfront dining** ' "Congratulations to all the winners of the 2021 Travelers' Choice Awards," said Kanika Soni, Chief Commercial Officer at Tripadvisor. "I know the past year has been extremely challenging for tourism businesses. What has impressed me is how

businesses adapted to these challenges, implementing new cleanliness measures, adding social distancing guidelines, and utilizing technology to prioritize guest safety. The Travelers' Choice Awards highlight the places that are consistently excellent - delivering quality experiences time and time again even while navigating changing customer expectations and new ways of working. Based on a full year of reviews from customers, this award speaks to the great service and experience you provided guests in the midst of a pandemic."

To see diner reviews and popular dishes, pictures, reviews or live entertainment of Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar, visit [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant\\_Review-g147248-d3535686-Reviews-Water\\_s\\_Edge\\_Restaurant\\_Bar-Aruba-Oranjestad\\_Aruba.html](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Restaurant_Review-g147248-d3535686-Reviews-Water_s_Edge_Restaurant_Bar-Aruba-Oranjestad_Aruba.html). □

## Aruba to me...

**You are back and we would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island.**

Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: [news@arubatoday.com](mailto:news@arubatoday.com) and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. □



## BINGO IS BACK! WATCH FOR RETURN OF MONDAY MADNESS

**WILDER  
Wednesday**— WIN A SHARE OF UP TO —  
**\$1,000 in  
Free Slot Play****Every Wednesday | 10am to Midnight**Earn 25 points and swipe at any kiosk to play.  
Win \$20 to \$100 in Free Slot Play.  
Play up to five times each Wednesday.**Alhambra**  
CASINO AND SHOPSOpen daily 10am to 3am | J.E. Irausquin Blvd #47 | 583.5000 | [casinoalhambra.com](http://casinoalhambra.com)Play Responsibly. Visit [www.gamblersanonymous.org](http://www.gamblersanonymous.org) if you or someone you know has a gambling problem.**THE SHOPS  
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Hungry Piranha | Twist of Flavors | Juan Valdez Café

The Brownstone Ribs &amp; Seafood | Subway

**Papillon Restaurant presents:  
Chef's Garden, culinary  
magic by European top  
chef in a romantic garden**

**PALM BEACH** —A true once-in-a-lifetime experience is coming up. The stage: an Aruban cunucu house creating a magical ambiance. The play: The Chef's Garden; a 6-course culinary voyage and French-Asian gastronomic ecstasy by Dutch top chef Martijn Liebrechts on Wednesdays. You will leave this culinary Garden of Eden in an enchanted state creating a memory that will last a lifetime. Be sure to reserve this opportunity before others do. This production is presented to you by Papillon Restaurant.

Sometimes combining the best of the best is a matter of all things falling into place. Every Wednesday from 7pm you are welcomed to enter a world where food is a passion. Papillon Restaurant presents their guest chef Liebrechts- who will be on the island for a limited time period - and with The Chef's Garden menu being a fresh concept on the island, we're sure you will fall completely in love with this.

**A bit about Martijn**

Liebrechts is the perfect example of when career and passion come together. He earned his spurts at Amber, one of the best French fine dining restaurants Hong Kong has to offer, with 2 Michelin-stars and ranked as the 24th best restaurant in the world. Amber has been the place where he got inspired by the use of Asian ingredients prepared in a classical French way which is still the base of his nowadays cooking style. Moving back to Amsterdam, The Netherlands, he joined the



team of former Bib Gourmand restaurant "Wilde Zwijnen", which was awarded the title "The New Dutch Cuisine" by the New York Times. He has been there and done it all around the world.

The menu is carefully done with local products, fresh and perfectly matched with a selection of wines by local sommeliers. Diet options are available; please inform them when you make your reservation.

**The Secret Garden & Papillon**

This is an in-home dining experience where you will feel you are part of an exclusive setting. Private culinary events

are the owner's specialty and their lush, tropical garden is also inviting for you to relax and indulge in hours of authentic culinarian delights, a heaven to foodies. For more than a decade, Papillon restaurant has built a reputation with the fusion of classic French cuisine, Dutch and Caribbean flavors. They know how to thrill and in collaboration with The Secret Garden we can only expect phenomenal. □

**For reservations:**

Call or WhatsApp: +297 699 5400

Email: [info@papillonaruba.com](mailto:info@papillonaruba.com)

Facebook Papillon Aruba





## Today's Happening

## A selection of where to go while in Aruba

**Thursday 5**

### Art Expression at Paseo Herencia Mall

- Art lovers, we've got you covered. Take a trip to Paseo Herencia Mall and enjoy the creativity, inspiration and the love for Art spread all around. Visit the Aruba Art Gallery where artists now have the ability to showcase their art pieces in this Artist Community Gallery, accessible to both locals and tourists. It's a new way to reconnect with other artists and community.
- From 5 PM – 10 PM
- Located at Paseo Herencia Mall. Entrance next to Starbucks & Maggy's
- Facebook: Aruba Artist Gallery



**Monday 9**

### California Lighthouse Experience

- Climb to the top of the California Lighthouse to see the best views of the island!
- From 9 AM till 5 PM
- Hudishibana 2, Westpunt
- Facebook Aruba Walking Tours



**Friday 6**

### Summer Impressions menu at Infini Aruba

- Enjoy an unforgettable dining experience at their chef's table, where an extensive 8 course Chef's Impression will be prepared right before your eyes. You can also opt for a carefully curated wine pairing. Indulge in never seen before creations and never tasted before combinations. All in an evening's worth of culinary magic.
- Starts at 6:30 PM
- Located at Blue Residence (J.E. Irausquin Blvd 266, Palm Beach)
- For reservations go to [www.infiniaruba.com/reservation](http://www.infiniaruba.com/reservation)
- Facebook: Infini Aruba



**Tuesday 10**

### Hands of Gold Massage & Beauty on wheels

- After a very busy week all you need now is to pamper yourself with a relaxing massage or a skin care & body treatment at the comfort of your own room. Mary of Hands of Gold Massage is ready to give you that much needed treatment you deserve. Discover the secret of relaxation.
- Available daily from 9 AM- 7 PM
- For reservations call/Whatsapp Mary at +297-733-5034
- Instagram page: [handsofgoldmassage&beauty](https://www.instagram.com/handsofgoldmassage&beauty)

**Saturday 7**

### Saturday Box Special at Bits & Cheeses by Deli297

- Enjoy a tasteful experience in a cozy and peaceful atmosphere. Bits & Cheeses offers a great variety of the best specialty Cheeses, Charcuterie, Butter & Wines. On Saturday's ask for the 'Box for 2' with 3 types of cheese & charcuterie with additives such as fruits, nuts and crackers. Can't pick up? They can deliver for a small fee.
- Available Saturday 5 PM-10 PM
- Pre order via whatsapp at (+297)5665264
- Located at Wilhelminastraat 63, downtown Oranjestad, (across El Gaucho restaurant)
- Facebook: Bits&Cheeses by Deli297



**Sunday 8**

### New Moon Group Ritual

- Do you want to learn more about The New Moon? Every New Moon is different. This New Moon in Leo will be powerful in many ways. Come and learn how to use the power of The New Moon in your life. Necessities: Yoga mat or towel, new notebook for New Moon manifestations.
- Starts at 7 PM
- Eagle Beach
- For reservations call +297 560-2526
- Facebook: Soul evolving flames Holistic Practice



## CARIBBEAN LINKED VI

2021 VIRTUAL EDITION

LIVE DISCUSSION

AUGUST 11

4:00PM-5:00PM (AST/EST)

WATCH IT LIVE ON YOUTUBE!

MODERATED BY ANNALIE DAVIS & HOLLY BYNGE



TAISHA CARRINGTON  
BARBADOS



AKLEY OLTON  
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES



SUSANA PILAR  
CUBA



SARABEL SANTOS-NEGRÓN  
PUERTO RICO

**Wednesday 11**

### Caribbean Linked VI - Virtual Conversation I

- Join this live public conversations between the artists Taisha Carrington (Barbados), Akley Olton (St. Vincent & the Grenadines), Susana Pilar (Cuba) and Sarabel Santos-Negrón (Puerto Rico) hosted by the regional residency Caribbean Linked VI, co-managed by Ateliers '89 (Aruba), The Fresh Milk Art Platform (Barbados) and ARC Magazine.
- From at 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm
- Live on Facebook
- Facebook: Caribbean Linked



# How to chop remodeling costs when wood prices are high

By **ANNIE MILLERBERND** of **NerdWallet**

Wood costs have skyrocketed over the last year, leaving would-be home renovators to choose between waiting in price purgatory or moving forward and possibly overpaying.

Lumber mills incorrectly predicted that the housing market would crumble under the weight of the pandemic rather than boom as it did, says David Logan, senior economist with the National Association of Home Builders.

That "fatal mistake," as Logan calls it, led to a supply-demand mismatch that by May of this year had driven the cost of lumber from mills to quadruple what it was in April 2020, according to data from Fastmarkets Random Lengths, a wood products industry trade publication.

As of mid-July, lumber prices dropped to only double their spring 2020 levels, but whether the decline will continue and when lower prices will reach homeowners isn't yet clear, Logan says.

Here are tips to navigate a home remodel when wood costs are through the roof.



In this June 24, 2021 file photo, lumber is piled at a housing construction site in Middleton, Mass. Associated Press

## MAKE ROOM FOR VARIABILITY

The recent price dip may seem like a positive sign, but Logan likens a home remodeler's dilemma to that of a homebuyer: There's no telling when the time will be right.

"Trying to time the market is likely to cause more angst than having the certainty of getting things underway," he says.

Logan says if he were renovating, he'd move forward with a large renovation, like a kitchen upgrade or room addition.

If a project requires months of planning and waiting, build room for price and timeline changes into your contract, says Ethan Landis, principal at Landis Architects/Builders in Washington, D.C. That way, you won't overpay if prices

drop before your contractor starts buying, but you can still delay if the project will be too expensive.

## SEARCH FOR ALTERNATIVES, PLAN FOR SCARCITY

If a small DIY or good-to-great update could wait a few months, Logan says he'd take the gamble and wait for wood to become more affordable.

"Knowing perfectly well that prices could be higher

by the time I do it," he says. In the meantime, search for recycled, reclaimed or alternative materials.

Ty Lindgren, a shift leader at a food and beverage manufacturing company in Olympia, Washington, brought home leftover wood pallets from work to build a playhouse for his kids. He estimates that using the pallets instead of high-priced two-by-fours lowered the project's cost from \$1,000 to about \$100. If you don't have access to extra, unclaimed wood, you can buy it.

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore has over 900 locations, many of which sell recycled wood or wooden items you can rehabilitate or convert into something like shelving. Some locations let you browse their inventory online.

Your local lumber or flooring liquidator may have enough wood to redo the flooring in a small room or on a single floor of your home, says Rebekah Hernandez, a Dallas-based interior designer.

"You can't be picky, because there's not many options, but they're out there," she says. □

# PepsiCo to sell Tropicana, other juices, in \$3.3B deal

By **MICHELLE CHAPMAN**

PepsiCo will sell Tropicana and other juices to a private equity firm in a \$3.3 billion deal.

The New York drink and snack company will keep a 39% non-controlling stake in a newly formed joint venture in the deal with PAI Partners.

The sale reflects the industry's uncertainty about demand for fruit juice as consumers look for healthier options with less sugar, said Howard Telford, head of soft drinks at Euromonitor International, a market research firm.

"This deal reflects the desire of the industry to focus and innovate around a smaller core of categories and brands, including water, energy drinks, coffee and the staple carbonated soft drinks," Telford said.

U.S. juice sales volumes actually rose last year as more people enjoyed breakfast at home during the pandemic and sought the immunity benefits of vitamin C, Telford said. But that was a blip in a longer-term decline. Overall juice sales fell 3% between 2015 and 2020, the data firm said.

Juice consumption in the U.S. peaked in 2003 at 4.2 billion gallons, but by 2017, that had fallen to 3 billion gallons, wrote Brian Sudano, the managing partner of Beverage Marketing Corp. The group does not see that trend changing.

Pepsi rival Coca-Cola Co. has also been shedding slow-selling brands, including Odwalla and Zico juices, over the last year so it can focus on stronger performers. But Coke is holding on to its Minute Maid and

Simply juice brands for now. The juice business delivered about \$3 billion in revenue for PepsiCo last year, but at operating profit margins that were below the company's overall margins, it said. In its annual report, Pepsi said falling juice sales offset gains for other products in North America, including water, sports drinks like Gatorade and energy drinks like Propel.

PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Ramon Laguarta said in a prepared statement Tuesday that the deal "will free us to concentrate on our current portfolio of diverse offerings, including growing our portfolio of healthier snacks, zero-calorie beverages, and products like SodaStream."

PepsiCo bought Tropicana in 1998 and the Naked juice brand, also part of



The symbol for PepsiCo appears on a screen at the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York, in this Tuesday Oct. 1, 2019, file photo. Associated Press

the sale Tuesday, about 10 years later. It was heading in another direction by 2018 when it bought SodaStream, the carbonated drink machine company, for more than \$3 billion. PepsiCo Inc., based in New

York, has the option to sell certain juice businesses in Europe.

The deal is expected to close late this year or early next year.

Pepsi shares were flat in early trading Tuesday. □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 45 Swiss peaks  
1 Goes angling  
7 Bond mall component workers

11 Concert extra  
12 Albacore, e.g.  
13 Colorful flower  
14 Grove growth  
15 Hold up  
17 Umbrella parts  
20 Aisle walker  
23 Aussie runner  
24 South-western capital  
26 For each  
27 Top  
28 Opening  
29 Was behind  
31 Dos preceder  
32 Gibson gamish  
33 Some primates  
34 Baking spice  
37 Pestors  
39 Flowering shrub  
43 Sad  
44 Rap sheet list

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2 One — million  
3 Univ. or acad.  
4 Cargo spots  
5 Lake near Buffalo  
6 Theater unit  
7 Duds  
8 Appearing  
9 Binary digit  
10 West of films

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Yesterday's answer

16 Home  
17 Copy for  
18 Clarifying phrase  
19 Feverish  
21 Keaton of film  
22 Trade shows  
24 Sow  
25 Batter's goal  
30 Con-temptible people  
33 Once more  
35 Travel aids  
36 Poet Pound  
37 Court org.  
38 Everyone  
40 Auction buy  
41 Pitching number  
42 Cart puller

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43					44					
45					46					

8-4

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

8-4 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

PAU'Y WEY PAGU LUP GLEY

VAX YMC AKKAXYZUEYECW

YA NABC. ICY ZK LUP BLFC

YMCB! — BLPLB N.Q. GLSEFX

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH YOU. THERE'S A LOT WRONG WITH THE WORLD YOU LIVE IN. — CHRIS COLFER



In this Wednesday, May 29, 2019, file photo, a woman looks at the Grindr app on her mobile phone in Beirut, Lebanon.

Associated Press

## Dating changed during the pandemic; apps are following suit

**LONDON (AP)** — Early in the coronavirus pandemic, Jennifer Sherlock went out with a few men she met through dating apps. The dates were "weird," she said, and not just because they were masked, socially distanced and outdoors. One one occasion, a date remained masked while they were out for a stroll, but soon after invited her back to his place, a move Sherlock saw as reckless. "It was so off putting, and awkward," she said. "So we wouldn't be safe outside without mask(s), but we would be safe back at his place maskless?" She decided she needed a way to filter people, so she began arranging video chats before agreeing to meet anybody in person. Sherlock, 42, a PR consultant who lives in New Jersey, said it's a practice she'll continue post-pandemic. Sherlock isn't alone in changing the way she used dating apps during the pandemic, prompting many to roll out new features. Despite the social distancing of the past 18 months, the use of dating apps in general has surged as people sought connections amid their isolation. Tinder reported that 2020 was its busiest year yet; this year, its users have al-

ready set two records for usage between January and March. Hinge tripled its revenue from 2019 to 2020, and the company expects it to double from that this year. In response to changing demands, Tinder announced new tools last month that will allow users to get to know people better online. People will now be able to add videos to their profile and can chat with others even before matching with them. "Historically consumers were reluctant to connect via video because they didn't see the need for it," said Jess Carbino, an online dating expert and sociologist who has worked for Tinder and Bumble. Post-COVID, however, many people expect a higher degree of screening, she said. "Online dating apps like Tinder are leaning into that." The dating apps say their research shows video chats are here to stay, even as life starts to return to normal in some parts of the world. Almost half of Tinder users had a video chat with a match during the pandemic, with 40% of them intending to continue them post-pandemic. Tinder says this is largely driven by Gen Z users in their late teens and

early 20s, who now make up more than half of the app's users. And a majority of Hinge UK users, 69%, also say they'll continue with virtual dates after the pandemic. Tinder, alongside other popular apps including Hinge, OkCupid and Bumble, has in Britain and the U.S. partnered with the government to add a badge to profiles indicating that users have been vaccinated. (There's no verification process, though, so matches could be lying.) Dating app users are also increasingly looking for deeper connections rather than casual encounters, Carbino said. That's what happened to Maria del Mar, 29, an aerospace engineer, who wasn't expecting to end up in a relationship after she matched with someone on Tinder early in the pandemic last year. She started chatting with her now-boyfriend through the app in April 2020 during a complete lockdown in Spain, where she lives. Having moved back to her parent's tiny town of León from Barcelona, del Mar was bored when she joined the app, but was surprised to find many things in common with her current partner. □



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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

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Aruba Bank N.V. Acc. #332668  
Caribbean Mercantile Bank N.V.  
Acc. #23951903  
RBC Royal Bank Acc. #1330772

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# The searing, timely play 'Pass Over' leads Broadway's return

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Danya Taymor was jazzed. It was late July and the theater director had just cracked open the August Wilson Theatre on Broadway after months of stillness and silence.

She soaked it all in, checking out the stage and tweaking her plans. Taymor is tasked with leading the first play to open on Broadway since the pandemic shutdown — "Pass Over."

"This play is the right play to reopen Broadway. It will help lead the way in so many ways," she said. "To consecrate the space after this plague with something as rich and deep and ultimately feeling as 'Pass Over,' I could not have dreamed it."

As the play makes the transition to its first preview on Wednesday, cast and crew offered their takes on the historic moment, from the first meet-and-greet to the first costume fittings and first rehearsal.

"I think, collectively, everybody is bringing their full selves after a year of transformation and stepping into this show. That energy is definitely palpable," said stage manager Cody Renard Richard.

Playwright Antoinette Chinonye Nwandu's play tells the story of two Black



This image released by Lincoln Center Theater shows Namir Smallwood, foreground, and Jon Michael Hill in a scene from "Pass Over" in New York.

Associated Press

friends, Moses and Kitch, stuck on an urban street corner and between childhood and manhood. They dream of leaving the corner — passing over — into paradise, a world they imagine full of caviar, clean socks and new Air Jordans. Days melt into days and they are visited by two white characters — a man with murky motives who has gotten lost, and a brutal cop who demands they put their hands behind their backs: "Come on, boy,

you know the drill," he tells them.

Riffing off Samuel Beckett's "Waiting for Godot" and the Exodus story in the Bible as well as being informed by the death of Trayvon Martin, the play explores structural racism, police brutality and economic determinism. "We ain't chosen," Moses tells his friend, heartbreakingly.

Bruce Springsteen's show was the first to open on Broadway since the shutdown began but "Pass

Over" is the first play. As with The Boss, it will be an early test of Broadway's COVID-19 precautions — required vaccines and masks for the audience.

The cast taking it to Broadway is the same that starred in a Lincoln Center production a few years ago: Jon Michael Hill as Moses, Namir Smallwood as Kitch and Gabriel Ebert as both white characters. All three say the work has deepened in the intervening years, especially since

the death of George Floyd at the hands of a white police officer.

"We know that what we did last time was special, and I think we have a real feeling that we can build and make something even more special," said Ebert. "We can go to another level with all of our work."

The world has changed since the play was last performed — and so will the play. Nwandu plans revisions throughout, especially with the end. In past productions, the cop kills Moses. In the version on Broadway, he will not.

"The text adjusts and changes and deepens and refines to meet that moment," said Taymor, who has directed three of the play's five iterations and makes her Broadway debut this time.

If the previous versions served as a wake-up call to Americans to see a system of injustice and brutality, Broadway's "Pass Over" acknowledges that Floyd's death did the same. Now the playwright is looking to the future.

"She's envisioning something that doesn't exist but could exist," said Taymor. "She's envisioning a way forward, which I think is really what we need right now." □

## So's fiction debut finds humor, pathos in genocide



This cover image released by Ecco shows "Afterparties" by Anthony Veasna So.

Associated Press

By ANN LEVIN

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge seized power in Cambodia,

establishing a regime whose fanatical policies led to the death of more than a quarter of the country's population. That genocide is a recurring theme in Anthony Veasna So's dazzling new story collection "Afterparties."

So, who died of a drug overdose last December at age 28, was the son of Cambodian refugees. He grew up in California's Central Valley, majored in art and literature at Stanford, and earned an MFA in fiction from the prestigious writing program at Syracuse.

When he died, he was on the verge of literary stardom, having secured a six-

figure, two-book deal from Ecco. The first one, "Afterparties," is an astonishing debut, crackling with energy, narrated in slangy vernacular, and written with attitude and style. The second book, a combination of fiction and nonfiction, is due out in 2023.

"As a kid, I heard traumatic stories of my family's experience surviving... Pol Pot's regime that somehow always landed on a joke," he wrote in 2018, the year his rollicking short story "Superking Son Scores Again" appeared in the literary magazine *n+1*. Narrated in the first-person plural by "the young men of this Cambo hood," it is about

a grocery store owner who moonlights as a high school coach — "a regular Magic Johnson of badminton" — but can't focus on the team because he is in trouble with loan sharks. In "The Shop," a busybody in the refugee community brings in a squad of Buddhist monks to restore the karma of a failing auto shop, offering unsolicited advice to the owner's gay son: "Marry a girl because that is what you should do. I am not saying you cannot be gay. How hard is it to be normal and gay?" In "Maly, Maly, Maly," two cousins, Ves and Maly, get stoned and watch a porno film in their uncle's

video store before a party to celebrate the reincarnation of Maly's mother in another cousin's baby. In "The Monks" a young man goes on a retreat at a Buddhist temple to help his father's spirit in the afterlife, gets high with a member of the religious order, and is amazed to discover that all the "praying songs" are actually Khmer covers of the Beatles.

In each of the nine stories, So lays out for inspection all the problems of his beloved community — from gambling and gossip to alcoholism and suicide — then embraces it all with love and compassion. It is a virtuosic performance. □



# AP sources: Pelicans send Ball to Bulls, get Hornets' Graham

By **BRETT MARTEL**

AP Sports Writer

**NEW ORLEANS (AP)** — The New Orleans Pelicans are sending Lonzo Ball to Chicago and will acquire Devonte Graham from Charlotte as part of separate sign-and-trade agreements, two people with knowledge of the situation said.

The Ball trade will send Bulls guards Tomas Satoransky and Garrett Temple to the Pelicans, and New Orleans will send a draft lottery-protected 2022 first-round choice to Charlotte, the people said.

The people spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday because trades cannot become official until Friday under NBA rules.

Ball is represented by Klutch Sports, which announced that the four-year veteran guard had agreed to a four-year, \$85 million contract. ESPN first reported the trade, which also sends a Bulls second-round draft choice to New Orleans.

Graham had a breakout year with the Hornets in 2019-20, his second NBA season, averaging 18.2 points and 7.5 assists.

But after the Hornets selected point guard LaMelo Ball — Lonzo's younger brother — with the third overall pick in 2020 and Graham got injured, he wound up in a backup role last sea-



In this Feb. 12, 2021, file photo, New Orleans Pelicans' Lonzo Ball brings the ball up during the team's NBA basketball game against the Dallas Mavericks in Dallas.

Associated Press

son. Graham averaged 14.8 points, 2.7 rebounds and 5.4 assists in 30.2 minutes while appearing in 55 games.

Lonzo Ball, a four-year veteran who turns 24 in October and entered the offseason as a restricted free agent, is coming off his most productive season. In his second year with the Pelicans, he averaged career highs in points (14.6 per game) and field-goal percentage (41.4) while averaging 5.7 assists. Drafted second overall by the Lakers out of UCLA in 2017, Ball has changed his shooting mechanics since being traded to New Orleans as

part of a blockbuster deal that sent Anthony Davis to Los Angeles.

Ball hit a career-high 172 3-pointers last season while making a career-best 37.8% of his shots from deep.

Now he goes from teaming with dynamic power forward Zion Williamson to joining Olympian Zach LaVine and two-time All-Star center Nikola Vucevic in a trio the Bulls hope will transform them into contenders in the Eastern Conference.

Chicago also agreed to a four-year, \$37 million deal with Lakers backup guard Alex Caruso, agent Greg Lawrence said. Caruso has

played all four seasons in Los Angeles, averaging 5.9 points while shooting about 43%, and teamed with Lonzo Ball their first two years.

The Bulls finished the 2020-21 campaign 11th in the East at 31-41, two games behind Charlotte for the final play-in spot. While they missed the playoffs for a fourth straight year, it was their first season with Arturas Karnisovas leading the front office and Billy Donovan coaching the club.

Graham also was a restricted free agent. He ranked 14th in the NBA in total 3s last season, knocking down 179 shots from beyond the arc as he became the sec-

ond player in franchise history with 175-plus 3-point field goals in consecutive seasons.

A 2018 second-round pick out of Kansas, Graham has played in 164 games, including 100 starts, averaging 13.3 points, 2.6 rebounds and 5.4 assists in 27.7 minutes. In three seasons with the Hornets, Graham has made 431 3-pointers, which ranks sixth in franchise history.

The Pelicans' long-term plans for Satoransky and Temple are unclear. New Orleans basketball operations chief David Griffin has a history of expanding initial two-team team trades to involve more teams and additional swapping of assets, as he did last season when he traded Jrue Holiday to Milwaukee. That deal expanded to include Denver and Oklahoma City.

Satoransky, from the Czech Republic, has played five NBA seasons — his first three with Washington and past two with the Bulls. He has averaged 7.4 points and 4.2 assists in 333 games.

Temple is an 11-year veteran out of LSU who also has played for Houston, Sacramento, San Antonio, Milwaukee, Charlotte, Washington, Memphis, the Los Angeles Clippers and Brooklyn. He has averages of 6.5 points, 2.3 rebounds and 1.8 assists. □

## Yanks lefty Montgomery joins Cole on sideline with COVID-19

**NEW YORK (AP)** — New York Yankees left-hander Jordan Montgomery tested positive for COVID-19 on Tuesday, a day after fellow starter Gerrit Cole was sidelined by the virus. General manager Brian Cashman revealed Montgomery's positive test during a radio interview before Tuesday night's game against the Baltimore Orioles at Yankee Stadium. The All-Star ace Cole was expected to start Tuesday, but manager Aaron Boone revealed the right-hander's positive test after Monday's 7-1 loss to the Orioles.

Cole was replaced by top prospect Luis Gil, who is set for his major league debut. Montgomery and Cole, who share the team lead with 21 starts apiece, will be out at least 10 days unless they draw two negative test results. Montgomery's most recent start was Sunday, when he had a no-decision in a 3-1 win over Miami.

The positive tests came after the Yankees returned from a weeklong trip to Florida, which is among the states experiencing an increase in COVID-19 cases.

At least 85% of New York's players are vaccinated. Boone says he believes it's up to the players to decide whether they want the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I think the right thing to do is to be vaccinated," Boone said. "I've said that a number of times, but in the end it's up to individuals."

All-Star outfielder Aaron Judge, infielder Gio Urshela and catcher Kyle Higashioka have tested positive since the All-Star break, as have pitchers Wandy Peralta and Jonathan Loaisaga. □



New York Yankees starting pitcher Jordan Montgomery removes his cap after giving up a double to Miami Marlins' Miguel Rojas during the first inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Aug. 1, 2021, in Miami.

Associated Press



# Biles returns to Olympic competition, wins bronze on beam

By **WILL GRAVES**

**AP Sports Writer**

**TOKYO (AP)** — Simone Biles isn't going home with a fistful of gold medals. A mental block — one brought on by exhaustion or stress or something the American gymnastics star still can't quite grasp — that forced her to pull out of four Olympic finals saw to that.

Yet standing on the podium Tuesday, a bronze medal hanging around her neck and tears in her eyes, the 24-year-old Biles may have claimed something far more valuable: a piece of herself back.

From the "twisties" that have haunted her for a week. From the endless speculation about her state of mind. From the hype machine — one, admittedly, she fed into at times — that set expectations so high coming to Tokyo nothing short of the impossible would have been enough. It all became too much. A week ago, her internal wires got crossed when she hopped on uneven bars during practice. Suddenly, she couldn't spin. She could barely move. She still doesn't quite know why. And if she's being honest, the wires still aren't re-connected. She's not sure when they will be.

"It was something that was so out of my control," Biles said. "But the outcome I had, at end of the day, my mental and physical health is better than any medal. So I couldn't be mad."

Biles and coach Cecile Landi adjusted her routine to ease her anxiety, switching out a dismount that required her to twist for one with two simpler backflips instead, a skill she hadn't done in competition in 12 years, half a lifetime ago. Even with the degree of difficulty lowered, she earned



**Simone Biles, of the United States, finishes on the balance beam during the artistic gymnastics women's apparatus final at the 2020 Summer Olympics, Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2021, in Tokyo, Japan.**

**Associated Press**

a 14.000, good enough for third behind Chinese teammates Guan Chenchen and Tang Xijing.

Afterward, she chatted with IOC President Thomas Bach then wiped away tears after accepting her seventh Olympic medal, tied with Shannon Miller for the most by an American gymnast. A wave of relief washed over her following a turbulent eight days that shifted the focus from the Tokyo Games to the mental health of the athletes who compete under the rings.

"We're not just entertainment, we're humans," Biles said. "And there are things going on behind the scenes that we're also trying to juggle with as well, on top of sports."

Biles thought she had it under control. Then the Americans finished a sur-

prising second to the Russian team in qualifying. She sensed the weight of the world on her shoulders. During the first vault rotation in the team final, the weight became too much. Shaken, she took herself out of the final three events and watched as her teammates held on for silver.

The decision made her a touchstone of sorts. Yes, there was a lot of support. She felt "embarrassed" when a trip through the Olympic Village included a steady stream of people coming up to tell them how much she meant to them. There was a lot of hate, too, one of the reasons she moved her Twitter app to the back of her phone, hopefully tamping down the temptation to search her mentions.

"It's not good for me right

now," she said.

There was no phone in sight when she appeared on the floor in a red, white and blue leotard with nearly 5,000 crystals stitched on. If she was nervous, it hardly showed. She warmed up and then sat on the floor next to teammate and newly minted all-around champion Sunisa Lee to watch highlights from other sports on a large video board.

Her routine was steady, seemingly immune to the whirl of dozens of cameras capturing her every move. She made a small hop after landing her double-pike, then saluted the stands. One last bow perhaps, in a career that includes 32 major international medals and a spot atop her sport. It's far too soon to think about Paris.

"I just need to process this Olympics first," she said.

While she hasn't officially announced her retirement — she's hinted that she might want to stick around in some fashion until the 2024 Games to honor coaches Laurent and Cecile Landi, who are both

French — a long layoff awaits. She's headlining a post-Olympic tour through the fall. What happens after that is a mystery, even to Biles.

Two weeks ago, she was a heavy favorite to win four golds. Maybe five. A week ago, her body couldn't do what she'd long trained it to do. Even on Monday, watching others spin their way through their routines made her want to "puke." Tuesday night offered justice of sorts. Five years ago in Rio de Janeiro, she was stunned when her bronze on beam was met with a shrug of the shoulders, proof of the double standard she is held to. She earned another one in Japan under circumstances no one could have envisioned.

"This one is definitely sweeter," she said.

Even if it's the last.

Biles receding into the background opened up the door for the teammates who have long competed in her considerable shadow. The 18-year-old Lee, who finished fifth on the balance beam, won the Olympic all-around title. She ended up with three medals in Tokyo, including silver in the team final and bronze on uneven bars.

Lee became the fifth straight American woman to capture the all-around title. MyKayla Skinner, placed into the vault final after Biles scratched, soared to silver. On Monday, Jade Carey's long journey to the Olympics ended with a victory on floor exercise after Biles gave her a pep talk following a nightmarish vault performance in which she tripped at the end of the runway and narrowly avoided serious injury. It wasn't the role Biles expected to fill when she arrived. She did it anyway, repaying those who have spent the last eight years doing the same for her. Asked if there was anything she would change about her experience in Japan, she shook her head.

"Nothing," she said. "I would change nothing." □



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